

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus management system, comprising:

an image processing apparatus communicably linked to a first computer network and having a printing function;

a managing apparatus communicably linked to a second computer network and configured to manage the image processing apparatus; and

a firewall configured to control data transmission between the first computer network and the second computer network, the firewall configured to allow reply data sent by the managing apparatus in the second computer network to reach the image processing apparatus in the first computer network, the reply data being in reply to an access to the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using at least one of a predetermined protocol having an immediacy₁[[;]] wherein the image processing apparatus has

a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in at least one of a predetermined aspect,

a generating unit configured to generate report data including information concerning the image processing apparatus, when the determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in the predetermined aspect₁[[;]] and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocol having the immediacy when the generating unit generates the report data, wherein

~~the managing apparatus~~, when the managing apparatus receives ~~receiving~~ the report data from the image processing apparatus, the managing apparatus is further configured to generate acknowledgement data including an indication of a reception of the report data, and

to transmit the acknowledgement data including the indication of the reception of the report data as the reply data to the image processing apparatus via the firewall.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the firewall allows the reply data sent by the managing apparatus in response to the report data, to pass through and reach the image processing apparatus.

Claim 3 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 2, wherein when the report data sent by the image processing apparatus includes a request for a program, the managing apparatus includes the program in the reply data.

Claim 4 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the managing apparatus includes an informing unit configured to inform an operator of contents of the report data and an identification of the image processing apparatus that sent the report data.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the managing apparatus includes a report outputting unit configured to output contents of the report data and an identification of the image processing apparatus that sent the report data.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus configured to perform an imaging function and communicably linked to a computer network via a firewall that allows data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least one of the predetermined protocols has an immediacy, wherein a managing apparatus communicably linked to the computer network manages a predetermined image processing apparatus, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in at least one of a predetermined aspect;

a generating unit configured to generate report data when the determining unit determines the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in the at least one of the predetermined aspect; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having the immediacy when the generating unit generates the report data, wherein

reply data sent by the managing apparatus to reach the image processing apparatus is sent through the firewall, the reply data is a reply to an access to the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having the immediacy, wherein

~~the managing apparatus~~, when the managing apparatus receives ~~receiving~~ the report data from the image processing apparatus, the managing apparatus is further configured to generate acknowledgement data including an indication of a reception of the report data, and to transmit the acknowledgement data including the indication of the reception of the report data as the reply data to the image processing apparatus via the firewall.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a remaining amount detecting unit configured to detect an amount of unused consumable product in the image processing apparatus, wherein when the amount detected is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including therein information about the consumable product.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a product replacement detecting unit configured to detect whether a product in the image processing apparatus must be replaced, wherein when the product replacement detecting unit detects that the product must be replaced, the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including therein information about the product to be replaced.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an abnormal condition detecting unit configured to detect at least one of an occurrence and a possibility of an occurrence of an abnormal condition in the image processing apparatus, wherein when the at least one of the occurrence and the possibility of the occurrence of the abnormal condition is detected, the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including therein information about the abnormal condition.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an inputting unit configured to input an instruction, wherein when the instruction is input, the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including the instruction therein.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an order information inputting unit configured to input order information to order a consumable product, wherein when the order information is input, the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including the order information therein.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including therein a request to send a program, and the transmitting unit is further configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus at a predetermined interval.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a utilization state acquiring unit configured to acquire state information about a utilization state of the image processing apparatus, wherein the generating unit is further configured to generate the report data by including the state information therein, and the transmitting unit is further configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus at a predetermined interval.

Claim 15 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method in which a managing apparatus manages an image processing apparatus, the managing apparatus and the image processing apparatus communicably linked to a second computer network and a first computer network, respectively, and the image processing apparatus communicably linked to the managing apparatus via a firewall that allows data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least one of the predetermined protocols has an immediacy, comprising:

determining whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in at least one of a predetermined aspect using a determination unit in the image processing apparatus;

transmitting report data when the report data is generated, including when the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined aspect, from the image processing apparatus to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one [[on]] of the predetermined protocols having the immediacy;

receiving report data from the image processing apparatus sent through the first and second computer networks and the firewall using at least one of the predetermined protocols having the immediacy at the managing apparatus;

outputting content of the report data received by the managing apparatus;

generating and sending report data from the managing apparatus to the image processing apparatus via the firewall, in response to the report data received by the image processing apparatus; and

allowing the reply data sent through the firewall to reach the image processing apparatus, wherein

~~the managing apparatus~~, when the managing apparatus receives ~~receiving~~ the report data from the image processing apparatus, the managing apparatus is further configured to generate acknowledgement data including an indication of the reception of the report data,

and to transmit the acknowledgement data including the indication of the reception of the report data as reply data to the image processing apparatus through the firewall.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus management system according to Claim 1, [[18,]] wherein the first computer network is a LAN and the second computer network is the Internet.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus management system according to Claim 1, wherein the first computer network is communicably linked to the second computer network via the firewall.